UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

The times they are a'changing - Part 6 (transfers)



More on the changing environment of college sports from Inside Higher Ed:

Under an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department, the National Collegiate Athletic Association has agreed to stop restricting athletes' rights to remain eligible to compete when they transfer from one institution to another. A consent decree filed in federal court by the federal agency would, if approved by a judge, bar the NCAA from limiting players' right to compete immediately if they switch colleges. The agreement would invalidate the sports governing body's existing rule and prohibit it from adopting any other such limitation.

The agreement would also require the association to give an additional year of eligibility to some athletes who were deemed ineligible because of the policy...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/05/31/ncaa-agrees-stop-limiting-athletes-transferring.

The consent decree is at https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1353806/dl.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW May 2024
- CUCFA Statement On Campus Protests
- We Support BOARS Math Requirements Recommendation
- Support AB-2349 – The Cal-Bridge Program
- Drop the Charges Against January Regents' Meeting Protestors

Remaking the University

- The Authoritarian Personality Comes to College - 5/2/2024
- The New McCarthyism Intensifies - 4/30/2024
- THE STRIKE - 12/6/2022

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
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- California Professor

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Tuesday, June 4, 2024

What the Regents Are Talking About Today



As we noted, there is a closed-door meeting today for the Regents. It is a remote meeting with Regents scattered all over the state and beyond:

400 Q St., Sacramento, CA
721 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA
500 J St., Sacramento, CA
5200 Lake Rd., BSP 187, Merced, CA
6629 Round Oak Rd., Penngrove, CA
433 S Spring St., Los Angeles, CA
2100 Steiner St., San Francisco, CA
555 California St., San Francisco, CA
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Pl, Room 362, San Francisco, CA
12011 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
4751 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
78802 Kramer Dr., Palm Desert, CA
106 E Babcock St., Bozeman, MT
315 Fourth Ave. N, Nashville, TN
266 Avenida Unión, 44150 Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico
Khối Hà My Đông B, Điện Bàn, Quảng Nam, Vietnam

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/june42024.html.

While we have no way of listening in, you can be sure the most recent PERB refusal to resolve the student-worker strike in UC's favor, or in any way, is part of the agenda *de jour.* From the San Francisco Chronicle:

A state labor relations board declined on Monday to halt the growing strike by graduate student workers at many University of California campuses related to pro-Palestinian protests, all but ensuring the disruptions will continue through the end of the school year. The Public Employment Relations Board found that the university, which has argued the strike is unlawful, had not met the legal grounds necessary to halt the strike. It was the second time it had declined the university's motion to end the walkout...

The university system argued that the strike is resulting in significant disruptions on campus that were harming students, faculty and staff. It has also argued that UAW members or those operating for the UAW have engaged in "unlawful and dangerous activities" such as striking a police officer with a UAW sign, occupying an academic building at UCLA and blocking roadways...

"We are disappointed that the state agency dedicated to the oversight of public employment could not take decisive and immediate action to end this unlawful strike — a decision that harms UC's students who are nearing the end of their academic year," Melissa Matella, an associate vice president at the university, said in a statement. ***The UC said it will file a breach of contract action against UAW in state court as a next step***...

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/california-labor-board-declines-intervene-uc-19493210.php.

It is important to understand that PERB, although it can be described as above as an agency with "oversight of public employment," is not really a dispute-settling entity. It is more of a legal-finding agency. It is thus slow moving. It may at some point make a finding that the strike is either legal or illegal. But not necessarily soon. And there are layers of decisions and appeals. A breach of contract suit is also likely to be a slow-moving affair which also depends on someone finding that the strike is illegal and violates the no-strike clauses in the various union-management agreements. In theory, if UC were to get such a finding, it could claim monetary damages from the union.

Right now, there isn't much common ground available for a settlement. From UC's perspective, the union is asking for things beyond the scope of bargaining and in violation of an agreement. It's hard to split the difference between that view and the union's position. A hypothetical mediator would not have much to work with. UC seems to have some internal "bargaining" to do as well, since some chancellors negotiated deals to end encampments by suggesting they would be looking into doing things the Regents seem to say is contrary to policy.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:52 AM No comments:  

Labels: strikes, UC Regents

Possible VP Jams



From Patch newspapers: *Angelenos have a few more days of dodging motorcade freeway shutdowns as Vice President Kamala Harris wraps up her six-day visit with a series of interviews before heading to the Bay Area Wednesday. Harris will remain in Los Angeles... Tuesday to participate in a Pride Month interview and then a taping of an interview for "Jimmy Kimmel Live."*

Authorities are not releasing exact details of the vice president's itinerary for security reasons. Typically, the trip between her Brentwood home and LAX involves San Diego (405) Freeway closures. Following Tuesday's interview with Jimmy Kimmel, she will participate "in a political event in Los Angeles," according to her office...

propositions (132) faculty center (132) controller (128) UC-Riverside (126) UC-San Francisco (126) CalPERS (120) Master Plan (99) faculty pay (99) UC-Merced (96) Yudof (89) UCRS retirement (60) privatization (59) parking (57) Faculty Association at UCLA (56) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (32) campus climate survey (28) copyright (25) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) Regents (13) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Irvine (2) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

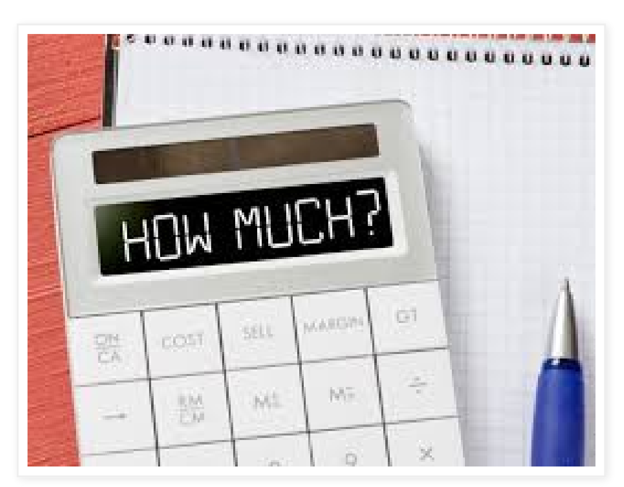
▼ 2024 (426)
▼ July (1)
The Berkeley Clarification
► June (72)
► May (87)
► April (63)
► March (66)
► February (68)
► January (69)
► 2023 (828)
► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)
► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)

Full story at https://patch.com/california/los-angeles/vp-motorcade-traffic-delays-kamala-harris-lingers-la.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 4:52 AM No comments:

Labels: traffic, transportation, UCLA

How much does it cost?



The Daily Bruin inquired about the cost of the police intervention in the encampments episodes. The article found bits and pieces of the answer but it never gets to totals nor to who actually pays. You can find the bits and pieces at:

https://dailybruin.com/2024/05/30/uclas-contracts-with-chp-lapd-reveal-costs-associated-with-police-on-campus.

It's not clear what inspired this inquiry. As we have noted with regard to the current strike, there is a question of legality and the no-strike clauses up before PERB with potentially no quick answer. If the strike were to be deemed illegal at some point, UC could conceivably seek financial damages for breach of the labor-management agreements. Whether that would actually happen is unknown. Not everything that could happen does happen. Did someone suggest to the Bruin that an inquiry be made? Maybe someone in UC labor relations?

The union seems largely trying to keep the rhetoric and chanting around the strike to traditional union themes. As we noted in a prior posting and video with regard to the first day of the strike, however, there were deviations to references to the Israel-Gaza War that could be used by UC to support the view that the strike is political and violates the no-strike clauses in the the various contracts.* Much the same could be found on social media concerningthe second day of the strike:

► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyUA-r7zKZk.

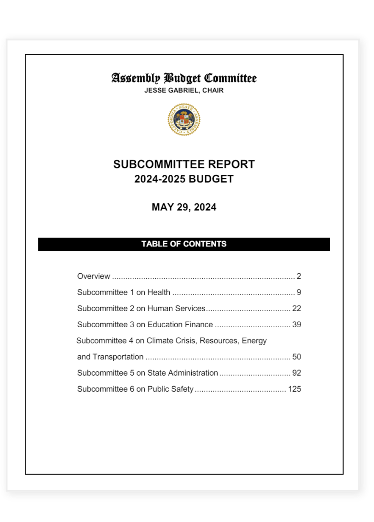
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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/05/strike-news-part-2.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:30 AM No comments:   

Labels: strikes, UC, UCLA

Good Luck in Making Sense of It



Assembly Budget Committee
JESSE GABRIEL, CHAIR

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT
2024-2025 BUDGET

MAY 29, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview 2
Subcommittee 1 on Health 9
Subcommittee 2 on Human Services 22
Subcommittee 3 on Education Finance 39
Subcommittee 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and Transportation 50
Subcommittee 5 on State Administration 92
Subcommittee 6 on Public Safety 125

The state assembly has its own version of the proposed state budget for 2024-25 that differs from the May Revise. But there are no summary tables, so it's hard to make sense of it or to compare it with the governor's version.

The higher ed portion including UC starts on page 43. But like the overall budget, it is hard to get a sense of what in aggregate it means to UC.

As we predicted, the governor's proposal to take $13 million from the UC labor centers is not accepted.

Some of this opaqueness is due to the work-in-progress status of the budget in the legislature. And some may be deliberate.

Anyway, you can find the document at:

https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2024-05/subcommittee-report-of-the-2024-25-budget.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:30 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, legislature, politics, State Budget, UC budget crisis

June Retirement Webinars

UC Retirement Process - From Start to Finish



Description: This webinar is intended for those considering retirement from UC within the next 4-12 months. Retirement counselors at UC's Retirement Administration Service Center will explain in great detail the retirement process, required forms, important deadlines and helpful resources. Please register for the webinar listed below.

June 4 (Today!) - 10 AM PDT

Resources: https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/retirement-benefits/preparing-for-retirement-presentation/index.html.

===

Retiree Health Benefits

Description: *This webinar is intended for those considering retirement from UC within the next 4-12 months. We will review in great detail the eligibility rules for retiree health coverage, your health plan options and projected costs including Medicare coordination, so that you can budget for these expenses in retirement.*

June 11 - 2 PM PDT

Resources: https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/benefits/retirement/retirement-planning-resources/retirement-planning-webinars/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:00 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, pension, uc retirement

Monday, June 3, 2024



Closed-Door Special Regents Meeting Tomorrow, June 4



The notice below popped up on the Regents' website over the weekend:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Date: June 4, 2024

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Agenda – **Closed Session**

B1(X) Action: Collective Bargaining and Legal Issues Related to Campus Safety

Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code §92032(b)(5)]

Closed Session Statute Citation: Collective bargaining matters [Government Code §3596(d)]

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/june24/boardx6.4.pdf.

===

We can leave it to your imagination as to what collective bargaining and campus safety issues the agenda refers. It appears this will be a remote meeting. However, as of early this morning, the locations of the various remote addresses are not available. It is (possibly) noteworthy that the one item on the agenda is listed as an action item, suggesting that there is more than information and discussion planned. Some policy may emerge. Whether, if there is some decision, it will be announced is unknown.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 4:38 AM No comments: 

Labels: UC Regents

Beyond the FAFSA Screw Up, There is This...

From the Washington Post:

...At least 1.4 million borrowers have had duplicate balances on their credit reports, according to three people familiar with the matter who were not authorized to speak publicly. They say the number of affected people could be far greater as the problem is pervasive. Many borrowers have no idea this is happening, even as their credit score — a critical factor in determining how much you pay for car loans and mortgages — has declined.

The Education Department said it has received approximately 500 credit reporting complaints since December but cannot confirm how many are specifically related to the duplication issue. The department is providing a workaround for faster removal of the error but said a permanent solution will take time...



The problem is born out of a 2021 change in how student loan servicers that manage the government's $1.6 trillion education loan portfolio report transferred loans to credit reporting agencies, such as Experian, Equifax or TransUnion. Before 2021, the servicer handing over the loan would close the records associated with the account — known as a credit tradeline — and then the receiving servicer would open another. But that sometimes prevented borrowers from disputing their prior repayment history with the credit bureaus.

Now, the Education Department wants the servicer receiving the student loan to submit a file — known as an L1 segment — to the credit agencies signaling the debt transferred from another servicer and the prior history should be retained. The problem is, sometimes that file does not get processed correctly by the credit agencies, according to the Education Department.

In guidance obtained by The Washington Post, the department's Federal Student Aid office told student loan servicers this month that the processing errors are responsible for the duplicate records appearing on borrowers' credit reports. There is no way for servicers to know that the file failed to process or a duplicate record exists, until a borrower complains or submits a dispute, according to the guidance...

Full story at https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2024/05/29/student-loan-balance-duplicates-credit-reports/.

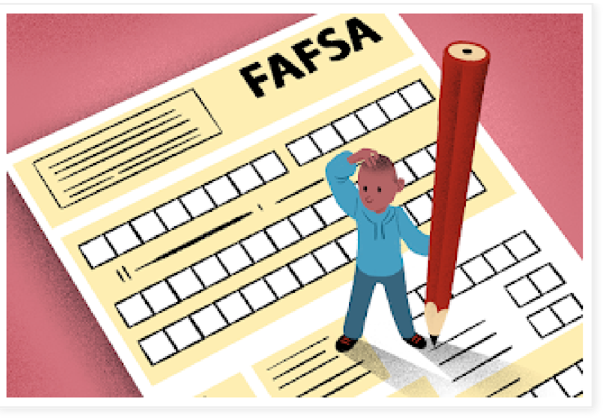
Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:30 AM No comments:  

Labels: miscellaneous

The FAFSA Drama Continues - Part 13 (consultant)

From NBC News:

The Education Department said Thursday that it is taking steps to improve operations at its Federal Student Aid office after months of delays and errors with this year's overhauled Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The form, known as FAFSA, had a botched rollout,



disrupting decision timelines for current and prospective college students and schools across the country.

In a letter to staff members Thursday, Secretary Miguel Cardona said the agency was conducting a "full-scale review of FSA's current and historical organization, management, staffing, workflow structures, business processes, and operations," as well as vendor contracts. In addition, the department is shaking up the office's leadership and bringing on a team of information technology experts to help with FAFSA next year, among other efforts...

The Education Department has hired the Boston Consulting Group to recommend ways to improve the FSA office, an agency spokesperson told NBC News...

Full story at https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/rcna154705.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:00 AM No comments:  

Labels: miscellaneous

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Health Services Committee of the Regents Will Be Back at UCLA June 12th



The Regents' Health Services Committee will be back at UCLA on June 12. Unless the current student-worker strike is somehow resolved by then, undoubtedly there will be activity and public comments related to it.* The preliminary agenda is below:

REGENTS: HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date: June 12, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Locations: Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles Campus

Agenda – Open Session

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 10, 2024

H1 Action: Amendment of the Clinical Enterprise Management Recognition Plan

H2 Discussion: Update from the Executive Vice President of UC Health

H3 Discussion: Improving Ambulatory Access across UC Health Facilities: An Update from the University of California Health Clinical Quality Committee

H4 Discussion: Promoting Strong Data Governance at UC Health

H5 Discussion: Comprehensive Reproductive Health Services at Student Health Centers

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Agenda – Closed Session

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 10, 2024

H6(X) Discussion: UC Health Litigation Update

Regents Guber, Makarechian, Park, Pérez (Chair), Reilly, Sherman, and Sures (Vice Chair); Ex officio members Drake, Leib, and Newsom; Executive Vice President Rubin; Chancellors Gillman, Hawgood, and Khosla; Advisory members Marks and Ramamoorthy

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Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/june24/hs.pdf.

===

*The preliminary agenda doesn't list a public comments segment. That is probably an error. Yours truly has emailed the secretary of the Regents about this issue.

===

UPDATE: The omitted public comments segment at 10 AM has now been added to the agenda.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:30 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UC Regents

The times they are a'changing - Part 5



From the LA Times: *The historic House v. NCAA settlement that established $2.8 billion in back pay for lost name, image and likeness deals and established a framework for revenue sharing between athletic departments and college athletes also prompted more questions than answers. How much money would be distributed as part of those revenue sharing arrangements? When would the payments start? Which athletes would benefit the most?*

[Last] Tuesday evening, UCLA became one of the first schools to provide some specifics. The school's athletic department revealed it expected to participate in revenue sharing with its athletes beginning in August 2025. Furthermore, UCLA said the revenue cap of 22% could amount to distributions totaling $20 million to $22 million per year among its more than 600 athletes.

"It's a new era in collegiate athletics," a UCLA athletic department spokesperson said in a statement. "We embrace this transformation for what it means for our student-athletes: the opportunity to receive direct NIL payments and revenue sharing. Our goals are to support and develop our student-athletes, compete at the highest level and maintain fiscal sustainability." ...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2024-05-28/ucla-revenue-sharing.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:00 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Saturday, June 1, 2024

It's Legit

You may get a survey starting June 3 concerning various UC health plans. Sometimes emails that purport to come from UC are from outside commercial vendors with no UC connection. In this case, however, the survey is real.

From UCOP:

Annual medical plan satisfaction surveys launching on June 3, 2024

On June 3, 2024, randomly selected faculty, staff, and retirees (as well as their spouses or domestic partners) will begin receiving requests to participate in the annual medical plan satisfaction survey. The survey takes roughly 20 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous and confidential.



The following UC-sponsored Medicare, non-Medicare, and Behavioral Health plans will be included:

CORE

Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage

Optum (for Kaiser members)

UC Blue & Gold HMO

UC Care

UC Health Savings Plan

UC High Option Supplement to Medicare

UC Medicare PPO

UC Medicare Choice

Full notice at https://link.ucop.edu/2024/05/28/annual-medical-plan-satisfaction-surveys-launching-on-june-3-2024/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:30 AM No comments:   

Labels: health care, UC, UCOP

Watch the Regents Meeting of May 16, 2024

We are late catching up with the final day of the May Regents meetings (May 16). But, in defense of yours truly, it can be said that what might have been an eventful meeting turned out to be predictable and largely a rubber stamping of earlier decisions.

In the morning open session of the full board, apart from one inaudible phone call, there were a series of anti-Israel comments and comments opposing J1 on department political statements. There was also one pro-J1 statement. Regents Pérez and Hernandez said they would meet with protesters. There were a lot of folks who signed up for phone comments who didn't answer when their names were called. The two student leaders who spoke largely mirrored the public comments although the undergrad said he might be open to some version of J1.

However, J1 - as blog readers will already know - was put off until July, just as it was postponed from previous meetings. Whether it will be further postponed in July is unknown at this point. It



might be noted that Harvard has adopted a more far-reaching version of J1, an event which might influence the future decision at UC.*

The other contentious issue was the $10 million tax on UCLA athletics to subsidize Berkeley. That tax had already been approved (recommended) in committee. There could have been debate about it when the board met in the afternoon. But it was approved (with a dissenting vote from Pérez) along with all the other committee recommendations. It was announced that Regent Reilly would be the incoming chair, taking over from Regent Leib. Finally, there were other ceremonial resolutions.

As always, we preserve Regents recordings since the Regents have no set policy with regard to retention. The May 16th meeting is at:

https://archive.org/details/regents-5-16-24-board-8-30-am.

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*https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Harvard%20-%20Institutional%20Voice%20in%20the%20University%205-28-2024.pdf.

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